

Special edition on diabetic retinopathy

Welcome readers to this special edition of JOECSA on the management of diabetic retinopathy. With the increase of the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in the region, more and more people are currently being diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. These people carry a lifetime risk of developing Diabetic Retinopathy (DR). When not diagnosed early and properly managed, these people end up developing preventable severe visual impairment or blindness. The use of anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factors (anti-VEGF) in the management of DR has totally changed its management in the recent past. New guidelines continue to be developed in line with the new discoveries. Regionally, it is important to look into these new guidelines and adopt them in ways practical to the region. In Kenya for example, a Diabetic Retinopathy Technical Working Group has come up some guidelines

for screening, diagnosis and management of diabetic retinopathy in Kenya. These guidelines have been published in this special edition to guide eye care workers in Kenya and the whole Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region on how the recent advances in the management of DR can be adopted in the region. More research needs to be done regionally to establish what works and what does not work in our situation. This edition also features two more original papers on the some of the ways researchers in the region are trying to improve the screening and management of diabetic retinopathy. With this we envision a renewed interest in research of innovative ways of tackling DR in the region.

Dr. E. M. Nyenze
Editor –in- Chief